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**IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the application of: Thomas A. Epple and
Lanny R. Smith

Attorney Doc. #: 13776/098509-20

Application Serial No.: 10/005,839

Examiner: Charles E. Phillips

Filed: 11/08/2001

Art Unit: 3751

For: Automatic Pool Cover Box Equipment Mounting Assembly

Mail Stop Non-Fee Response
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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APR 06 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In the final office action dated January 6, 2004, the examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-21 and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,913,613 to Ragsdale et al., and objected to claims 3-5, 13-15, 22 and 23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The examiner indicated that claims 3-5, 13-15, 22 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the examiner's final office action, Applicants submit the following amendments canceling rejected claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-21 and 24-28 and amending claims 3-5, 13-15, 22 and 23 in accordance with the examiner's recommendations to place those claims in condition for allowance.

The amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper, and remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.